

22 Bank Street. N. Y.

22 Sept. /45.

My dear Doctor -

Your very kind letter should not have been so long unanswered, had it not been for circumstances which have employed my time & thoughts since its receipt - I must first remark, since it is of the most concern to me - that I am utterly at a loss to comprehend how you should have "had reason to fear that whilst I was at Buffo. you had unwittingly given me offence" - Nothing was, at any time, further from my thoughts, tho' I freely confess that, after my return from the W. Indies, I was deeply pained that I neither saw nor heard from you, in the midst of my troubles - The equal, & total neglect of Dr. Torrey, was no less matter of surprise & concern to me - About the time of my leaving N.Y. for Buffo. & during the bitter, unchristian persecution of my sainted Father, I well knew that the most unwarranted liberties were taken with my name; & stories circulated in regard to me, which were contemptibly untrue - Tho' I knew all this, I disdained to notice, or contradict them; & without caring to enquire what you may have heard, I think it quite probable, that some malicious fabrication, with reference to yourself, was conveyed to you from quarters whence, I well know, the most barefaced falsehoods have emanated in connection with my name - Be this as it may - I despire too much the slanderers, & the slander, to pursue the subject further - It is enough that I utterly disclaim any unkindness either of thought - word - or deed, so far as yourself or Dr. Torrey are concerned - I dismiss then this painful, & unprofitable subject, & proceed, with much pleasure, to acknowledge, with sincere thanks, the kind & generous contents of your letter, before me - And first of the Book, with which I am much pleased,

& recognize great improvement both in the matter, & perspicuity
of style; nor do I believe that it required any "critical revision" at all.
I am reading it, regularly, & shall, of course impart any thought which
may strike me - I observe, incidentally, that unless you know the fact, I
doubt whether "Gruyere" Cheese, is flavoured with Macilicates - The Chesire
is - but I always understood that the Gruy. was a simple goats milk
cheese - None of my Herbar. was saved! Not a single folio! I saw an
Printer who was in my room when the heat burst open the cabinet
doors, & he told me that he regretted to see a complete copy of "Rees'
Cyclopedia", which he took it to be, fall a prey to the flames - It would
afford me much pleasure to accept your kind invitation, so
warmly conveyed, but I hardly know what to say to it, at present.
The offer of Duplicates, from your valuable Collections, is very tempting
indeed, & I have been asking myself, ever since I received it, whether
indeed, I "have the heart" to set about the formation of an Amer. Herbar.
anew" - Mr. Oakes accompanied a most kind letter, with an
instalment of 50 wt. Vata. plants, telling me, at the same time, that I
must begin again, & that he could & would send me the plants of
N. Engl. - From the Rev. M. A. Curtis, & Prof. Dewey I have equally kind
offers of assistance, but when I look back, to what I have lost, I feel
as tho' it were idle to look forward with hope of doing any thing -
How shall I ever again amass the plants of the Ry. Mts. - of Texas -
of Florida - of N. W. Coast. Califo. of U. Flower Can. - The retrospect &
the prospect seem alike discouraging - To a person collecting, for the
first time, every step is an advance, & gives courage, whereas to one
who with infinite difficulty, & years of toil, has climbed a very high hill,
to the bottom of which he suddenly tumbles, the efforts to climb
again, gradually, & as high as inferior advantages permit, have not
the same exciting influence; as the eye remains fixed upon the eminence
once attained, & the intermediate steps of advance towards it, are
passed over with restless impatience, whilst the impracticable height
is unattained - Still, however, so strong is the passion with me, & so

lonely my recent hours, that I am more than half inclined to apply to
my old botanical friends for help, "in forma pauperis" - Few days ago
a proposition was made to me to join a respectable friend in establishing
a business here, but I did not feel that I could in honour listen to
his proposals without first consulting Dr. Peales as to what were the
(human) probabilities of my recovering from my present prostrate
Condition of body & mind - He assured me, that if I would put myself
in his hands, he did not at all doubt, but that, with the blessing of God,
I should recover the use of my (Right) limbs, & be capable as ever of
managing a large business - This view, coinciding with that which
my friend had already formed for himself, induced him to determine
the connexion, & I have, accordingly, concluded a Partnership for
7 years, from 1 Mar. next, as "Genl. Com. & Importing Merchant." I know
I shall not want your good wishes, at least, when we begin - Dr. Peales
is giving me Bitters to restore the tone of my Stomach, & a
preparation of Strychnine, for the nervous system - To this
I add the use of a Cold Shower-bath, which pours 3 gal. of
Croton, on my devoted head, the moment I rise from my bed
every morning - I have removed, as you will note, by the date of
my letter, up Town, where I live totally alone, taking my breakfast
in my own parlour, & dining at a coffee house, down Town, as the
Dr. wishes me to walk that distance every day (about 5 miles, down
& up.) My present quarters will do well enough, for the winter,
when the new firm starts, I shall go down Town again, to be
near my office - Now then - Having laid my exact position before
you, I want your advice, as to commencing a new Herbarium,
with reference to the following points - The Duplicates & Contributions
of a few kind friends will help me to some hundreds of plants,
perhaps, during this winter; but as I shall not, of course, have any
leisure to collect for myself, what do you think would be the chance
of procuring good sets of Southern, Western & N. Western plants, by

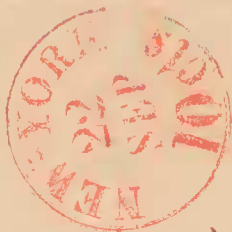
may of purchase, if, hereafter, I should find myself rich enough
to make the outlay? At present, I frankly confess, that I am
not, as heavy exp^s have drained my previously impoverished purse
almost to exhaustion, which, since D.^r B. feels confident that my
health may be restored, must now be replenished, by exertion,
if it may so be - Some time since, I noticed in Gill. Jour.
that 2 or 3 Prot. (amongst them Jeyer) were collecting in the
West (& amongst the Ky. Mts.?) Are they still doing so, & at
what rate do they sell their plants? Is Dr. Chapman still
in Flor.? If not, are there any other good Collect^{rs} there?
What of Engelmann? Does he sell his plants? I want
you to weigh these species, for an hour or two, & to give me
your opinion as to prospective chances of building up enough
of an herbarium to interest me - not such as I had before,
of course, but types of most of our N. Am. Genera - If I begin
again, I shall take a smaller size paper than before - What
is your size? Do you like, for working purposes, that proposed by
Hindley as the best - $10\frac{3}{4} \times 16\frac{1}{2}$ in? I shall not, again, adopt the
plan of fastening the Spec^s by strips of paper, tho' I like it best on some
accounts, as it would be far more tedious than gluing - As I suppose
that you have recently done a great deal of this, in arranging
your Herbar., tell me what you find the best & shortest plan.
Do you put each paper separately under a weight until the glue is
dry? or how else ensure cohesion, the Spec^s being for the most
part unequal in surface? Again, I beg you to tell me what
is the English mode of arrangement which you are adopting?
This letter will seem to you frightful in its requirements, & the more
so, since I must beg you to write me your views (pleasure permitting)

without any delay, as I shall guide myself, in good measure, by
your opinion, as to recommencing a Collectⁿ, & am desirous of
answering those friends who have spontaneously tendered me help.
Mr. Curtis, particularly, is very kind, & says, "I have a large amt.
of Dup^s & you shall be welcome to any in the Collectⁿ" & adds
"There is not a Botanist in the Country who will not unite with me,
& if you will give me permission I will confer with most of them
on the Subject & procure their contributions towards restoring, as
far as can be, your Herbarium" — However, I may determine
as to this offer, it is, in itself far too kind, to remain unacknow-
ledged, for any length of time — I am sorry to learn that my poor
(personally unknown) friend, Mr. Lea, died about 12 Mos. since, &
his Herbarium was all sent to Mr. Sullivant, between whom &
myself, (I learn from his brother J. L.) he hesitates; but determined
on Mr. S. as the nearer of the two — Dr. Forrey kindly called
upon me, in spec^{ie}. M. one evening shortly after the receipt of
your letter; but unfortunately, being quite unwell, I had
gone to bed — He sat with my Mother for an hour, &
as I learn, also very kindly offer'd to ^{help} rebuild my Herbarium.
I have not had the pleasure of seeing him myself, but I
deeply regret what you tell me of his impaired health —
I also hear, with much sorrow, that "Cares have multiplied
upon you also, & that the grey hairs are multiplying on your
head" — I had hoped that your present position, & naturally
buoyant Spirits, would have secured you more than the
average amount of human happiness — One word more,
& I have done — If you are of opinion, that, all Circumstances,

considered, I have but a small chance of getting together a
reasonably interesting Collect. of N. Amer. plants, do not hesitate
to say so, as I have myself, very great doubts & misgivings
on the subject - & you need not fear disappointing me -
If you conclude otherwise, I would enquire whether your
dupl^s are selected from your own Herbar. so as to admit of
their being sent on here, by Express, piecemeal, so that I
might select Specimens & write labels, & afterwards return to
you the Bulk, & receive another parcel - If it is otherwise,
I could only avail myself of your liberality, by visiting you,
as it would be quite out of the question to suppose you could
devote the necessary time to make the selection - Independently,
however, of this consideration, it would afford me very much
pleasure to visit you, for a week, but as it has now become
a duty to my future partner, that I should "make a business"
of the restoration of my health, & which I am accordingly
doing, I am not, ~~at present~~, certain whether Dr. B. would
prefer my quitting my Shower-bath & medicines, for the sake
of the gratification which this trip would afford me - I have
not, however, consulted him on the subject, at present, &
shall postpone doing so, for a day or two, until I hear
from you - Meantime, & begging you to weigh well my letter,
& excuse its length, I am, very truly, Yrs. J. M. Carey

Please address me, Care of Langley Pine - N

Five seeds yet
Worming in garden
to be gathered



PAID

Paid.

Prof. A. Gray
Harvard Univ.
Cambridge Mass.